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JAPAN.

YOKOHAMA—Inspection of Vessels—Plague Rats on Vessel.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports, December 10:

Week ended December 4. Vessels inspected: Steamships *Tenyo Maru* for San Francisco and *Kumeric* for Seattle, and schooner *Musashi Maru* for Agana, Guam.

Plague-infected rats were found during the week on the steamship *Chikuzen Maru* at dock from Shanghai via Kobe. The vessel was remanded to quarantine.

KOBE—Inspection of Vessels—Plague.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Knight reports, November 24 and December 2 and 8:

Week ended November 20. Supplemental bills of health granted to 4 steamships. There were inspected 256 members of crews and 79 steerage passengers, and 10 members of crews and 12 steerage passengers were bathed and their effects were disinfected. The number of pieces of baggage steamed was 67 and bedding 24. Manifests were viséed for 22,862 pieces of freight amounting to 2,428 tons. Thirty-one cases of human hair were disinfected with formalin. Twelve emigrants by steamship *Kaga Maru* were passed and 25 recommended for rejection. The emigrants were in quarantine detention at Ono for 7 days. The official returns of infectious diseases for the week show 16 cases of plague with 11 deaths at Kobe.

Week ended November 27. Supplemental bills of health granted to 3 steamships. There were inspected 292 members of crews and 487 steerage passengers; 79 steerage passengers were bathed, and their effects were disinfected by steam. The number of pieces of baggage steamed was 254 and bedding 158. Manifests were viséed for 113,959 pieces of freight, amounting to 8,811 tons.

Emigrants examined: By steamship *Mongolia*, for Honolulu; passed 40, recommended for rejection 52; for San Francisco, passed 2, recommended for rejection 4. By steamship *Tenyo Maru* for Honolulu; passed 31, recommended for rejection 36; for San Francisco, passed 6, recommended for rejection 5.

The emigrants passed to Honolulu by the steamship *Mongolia* include 11 Russians who were inspected and bathed; their effects were disinfected. The emigrants were 7 days in quarantine detention at Ono before embarkation.

The official returns of infectious diseases for the week show 12 cases of plague with 12 deaths in Kobe.

Week ended December 4. Supplemental bills of health granted to 2 steamships and original bill of health granted to 1 steamship.

There were inspected 185 members of crews and 15 steerage passengers; 46 members of crews were bathed and their effects were disinfected by steam. The number of pieces of baggage steamed was 111. Manifests were viséed for 54,744 pieces of freight, amounting to 3,245 tons. During the week 531 packages of old rubber overshoes were disinfected by steam and 31 cases of human hair were disinfected with formalin. One vessel was fumigated with sulphur to kill vermin, and her forecastle washed down with antiseptic solution.

The official returns of infectious diseases for the week show 6 cases of plague with 5 deaths in Kobe.

Plague rats on a vessel.—The steamship *Chikuzen Maru*, plying between Shanghai and Yokohama, en route to Yokohama, while stopping at this port was discovered to be infected with plague rats. The vessel proceeded to Yokohama, where she was detained 10 days in quarantine and thoroughly fumigated according to the Japanese quarantine laws.

MEXICO.

COATZACOALCOS—Inspection of Vessels.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Thompson reports, December 16:

Vessels inspected: December 14, steamship *American*, with 45 in crew, for New York; December 15, steamship *San Cristobal*, with 30 in crew, for Port Arthur, Tex., and steamship *City of Mexico*, with 25 in crew and 8 passengers, for New Orleans. No quarantinable disease present.

SALINA CRUZ—Fumigation of Vessel.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gochicoa reports, December 16:

Two weeks ended December 15. Steamship *Mexican*, for San Francisco, fumigated December 7.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Cholera in Cebu.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, November 24:

During the past few weeks there has been a constant decline in the number of cases of cholera reported in the city of Manila and in the provinces, but the number of infected towns has remained about the same. The danger which this disease is to a community, even though present in sporadic form, is well shown by the experience of Cebu during the past week. The last known case of cholera in Cebu occurred more than a week prior to November 12. On November 13 there were 10 cases reported; the succeeding day 43 cases; the next day 44 cases, and the following day 73 cases. The victims practically all lived in one section of the city, and the water supply of this section at once came under suspicion. The trouble was soon located in several wells in which, no doubt, material from a cholera stool had found its way. Most energetic measures were taken; the water in the wells of the infected district was made into a 3 per cent solution of carbolic acid, and this solution was then pumped out and distributed over as large a section of the ground in the neighborhood of the wells as possible. After this the wells were closed; the sick were isolated in rapidly-improvised hospitals, public closets were constructed, and these, as well as private closets, were regularly disinfected; a house-to-house inspection was made; distilled water distributed, and thorough disinfection of all houses in the infected district carried out. An immediate decline took place in the number of cases, until on November 21 the number had fallen to 5 cases per day.

The foregoing experience again demonstrates in a most effective manner the value of a properly organized health force available on the ground to combat outbreaks of this kind. It is not inconceivable